

Ice, gas leak cause fire

No injuries, residents displaced

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Duxbury firefighters battled a fire at the Duxbury House Thursday morning.

Crews received 911 calls around 10:15 a.m. on Thursday, reporting a gas leak and fire. The Duxbury House is a single-floor wood building that operates as a 24-hour nursing facility. Seventeen residents were immediately evacuated by seven staff to an adjacent facility, Bay Path Nursing Home. The Duxbury Fire Department commended the staff for their fast action during the incident.

When crews arrived at the scene at 298 Kingstown Way, they observed a gas-fed fire at the back of the building with flames impinging the structure. The fire extended into attic space and into a small basement area.

The gas leak was caused by a heavy snow load, which pushed the gas meter away from the structure and snapped the pipe before the shutoff. Firefighters could not enter the building until the gas company arrived to shut off the gas at the street. The gas was ignited by the furnace in the basement.

Twenty-two firefighters from Duxbury, Kingston, Plymouth, Pembroke and Marshfield responded to the fire with nine pieces of equipment.

Large snow banks around the structure hampered the firefighters' access to the building, but the hydrants were accessible.

Carla Roudabush, director of communications for Welch Health Care & Retirement Group, which runs the Duxbury House, said all residents of the Duxbury House Alzheimer's Care Center were evacuated safely by the staff without incident. "All members of the residents' families were immediately notified," Roudabush said. The residents are now being cared for at Bay Path Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, which is another Welch Healthcare Retirement Group nursing center. "Some residents may be transferred to other skilled nursing centers along the South Shore within the Welch Group continuum of care," Roudabush said. No injuries were reported. The property damage is estimated at \$500,000.